

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840



Keystone Photo,

Big Ben

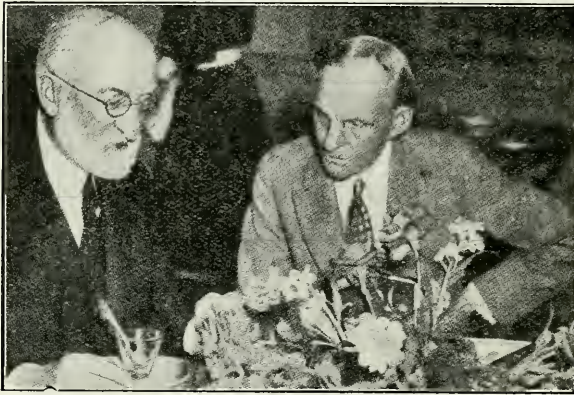
It will strike the close of an eventful year.

(See pages 837 and 842)

CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CHURCH

By PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

FORTY years ago the Mohammedan, the Jew, the Turk, the Shinto priest, and every other religious creed was permitted its representative to speak in the Hall of Religions at the World's Fair in Chicago.



President Grant and Henry Ford

At Dearborn, President Grant was a special guest of the motor car magnate.

(in 1933) Mr. B. H. Roberts, who was refused the opportunity to speak on the occasion to which I have just referred, represented the Mormon Church, although he was suffering very severely and had to go on crutches. He made an address at that conference, and was requested to make another.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized in 1830 in New York state. The opposition was so great that the Church moved to Ohio, which was then on the American frontier. Our people built a temple there, which was undoubtedly one of the largest buildings in Ohio. Again, the opposition became so intense that the people moved to Independence, Missouri, and they were finally driven out of the state of Missouri under an exterminating order of the governor of the state. Our people have never been reimbursed for their lands from which they were driven.

Some years ago I played a game of golf in Kansas City, Missouri, which has a population of nearly 500,000, with a son of former Governor Crittenden. He handed me a pamphlet in which appeared pictures of the founder of the famous newspaper, the *Kansas City Star*, with his wife, and the first Presiding Bishop of the Mormon Church. Mr. Crittenden checked off a

at the World's Fair in Chicago. The only Church that was refused an audience in the Hall of Religions was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the only Church in America which claims to have been established by divine revelation. However, at the last religious conference held in Chicago

description of some of the property in that vicinity and jokingly remarked, "Mr. Grant, you are playing on your own links, as the

title stands in the name of the Presiding Bishop of the Mormon Church."

Subsequently I was asked to speak before the Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City, and I remarked that I owned, as President of the Church, nearly one-half of Kansas City, but I could not get possession of it, because under the law, adverse possession for a certain number of years gives one a title. Nearly all the abstracts of title to land in the eastern part of Kansas City show the title to the land in the name of Edward Partridge, the Presiding Bishop of the Mormon Church.

Later our people were invited to locate at Commerce, Illinois, where there were very few people. They built a city which they called "Nauvoo, the Beautiful," in which, within five years, there were 20,000 inhabitants. Here, too, they met much opposition. The prejudice against them caused them to be bitterly persecuted. About this time the Prophet Joseph Smith uttered a prophecy that the saints would continue to suffer much affliction, and would be driven to the Rocky Mountains; many would apostatize, others would be put to death by our persecutors, or lose their lives in consequence of exposure or disease; and some would live to go and assist in making settlements, and building cities, and see the saints become a mighty people in the midst of the Rocky Mountains.

We now have over a thousand wards and branches from Canada to Mexico, with a meet-

ing house in each, several of these Church buildings costing more than £20,000. And we have become a great people, as predicted.

Joseph Smith had foreseen that our people would be forced to leave their homes, and he had started West with a body of

An Introduction

THIS article by President Heber J. Grant is adapted for the *Star* from his address delivered at the Institute of Human Relations, held in Estes Park, Colorado, under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Jews and Christians. In addition to President Grant there appeared at the Institute distinguished national and international figures representing the world's major creeds and social groups.

In introducing President Grant, Dr. Frank Kingdon, President of Newark University, who gave the keynote address and presided over the session, said in part:

"Certainly, no discussion of majority and minority groups would be complete without a representative of the Latter-day Saint Church; and yet so strong are the prejudices that still exist against this organization, that this is the first time that a representative of that Church has been invited to address an audience such as this. Yet that group has been as you know, very influential in the affairs of the nation. Some of the men from the state of Utah, belonging to this Church have been amongst those who have been highest in the councils of the nation."

Another honour came to President Grant this year when he was one of the principal speakers at the Conference of Agriculture, Industry and Science held in Dearborn, Michigan. At the Conference President Grant was a guest of Mr. Henry Ford, world-famed motor car manufacturer.

picked men to find a place of refuge. But some of the people of Nauvoo accused him of running away and deserting his flock. He thereupon returned to Nauvoo, remarking that if his life was of no value to his people, it was of no value to him. He surrendered to the governor of the state of Illinois. He, with his brother Hyrum Smith, John Taylor and Willard Richards, was incarcerated in Carthage jail, with a pledge of protection from the governor, which pledge by the way was not kept. On his way to Carthage he said :

I am going like a lamb to the slaughter ; but I am calm as a summer's morning ; I have a conscience void of offense towards God and towards all men ; I shall die innocent, and it shall be said of me—"He was murdered in cold blood."

And that is exactly what happened. He and his brother were killed by a mob on June 27, 1844. John Taylor, who afterwards became President of the Church, received four gunshot wounds and carried some of the rifle balls in his body to his grave.

Brigham Young, as leader of the stricken people, then entered into an agreement that the Latter-day Saints would move to the West. He with others began exploring the country, and the migration began in February, 1846. That winter, after many of the able-bodied men had left, the mob drove the remnant of the Mormon people from their beloved city of Nauvoo. It was a beautiful and populous town of 20,000 souls when Chicago was a mere trading post. The first detachments of the people crossed the Mississippi River on the ice, in the dead of winter, and during that terrible night nine babies were born with no shelter save the rude tents and wagon covers under which their mothers were huddled. No tongue can tell, no pen can paint the sufferings and the hardships of the Mormon people in these drivings from Missouri and Illinois. The people reached Council Bluffs, Iowa, moved across the river and built Winter Quarters, now a part of Omaha, Nebraska.

IN the meantime a state of war had grown out of the difficulties between the United States and Mexico, and a government recruiting officer was sent to the Mormon camps, near what later became Council Bluffs, soliciting five hundred men for military service to march against Mexico.

The leaders of our people had previously petitioned the President of the United States, Martin Van Buren, for redress of wrongs, only to have the president announce: "Your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you." Yet now five hundred men were demanded from whom? From a people who were being expatriated, a people who had been driven from Missouri under circumstances of indescribable cruelty, a people who had also just been expelled from Illinois in the dead of winter.

Nevertheless, Brigham Young said: "Captain Allen, you shall have your battalion; and if we haven't enough young men, we will give you old men." Recruiting started, and in three days the five hundred men were furnished. I maintain that you will search the history of the world in vain to find elsewhere such an evidence of patriotism! In spite of their expatriation, in spite of the fact that in order to save their lives they had been compelled

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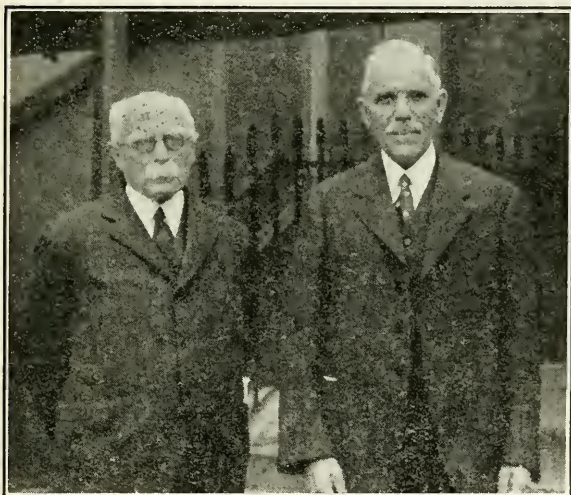
GLANCING BACK—LOOKING AHEAD

By Elder Parry D. Sorensen

WHEN the chimes of Big Ben, high in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament, strike midnight on December 31, it will mark the close of another memorable year in the world's history. Perhaps none other in modern times has had so many momentous and significant events packed into its 366 days. Three Kings have ruled Britain in that period, the map of the world has been changed, new governments have risen to power, wars have been, and are still being carried on.

But on the other hand, progress has been a keynote of the past 52 weeks. The beginning of economic recovery has been practically world-wide. Science continues to make rapid advancement, making available to mankind in greater abundance the almost infinite possibilities of the universe.

With the multitude of events and great progress being made in the world during 1936, the Church has likewise kept pace



Art Photo.

Sir Francis Younghusband and President Merrill

At the World Congress of Faiths they occupied the stand together.

and enjoyed in adequate proportion similar advancement and activity. By far the greatest and most significant achievement of 1936 was the success of the Church Security Programme, inaugurated last spring to care for needy members. In the space of six months the plan has been put into complete operation and provision been made to care for every needy member of the Church through the winter. Again the eyes of the nation were turned toward the Latter-day Saints, and, as in innumerable instances before, they proved themselves equal to the task.

While the Security Plan focussed attention upon the Church, millions throughout the length and breadth of the American continent heard the message of Mormonism, brought to their homes through the medium of one of the wonders of the modern world—radio. The entire network of the Columbia Broadcasting System in the United States and Canada carried half-hour programmes of the General Conferences, held in April and October.

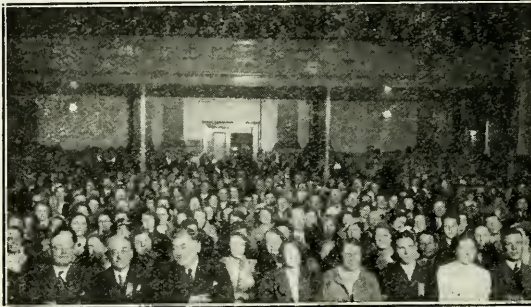
The M. I. A. and Primary Conference in June was also heard by radio listeners of the Columbia Chain.

The Tabernacle Choir has been heard on its Sunday morning broadcasts during the entire year through Columbia's facilities. Now in its eighth consecutive year, the Choir programme is the oldest regular national broadcast in America.

Business, industrial, scientific and agricultural leaders paid tribute to President Heber J. Grant when he attended the Conference of Agriculture, Industry and Science, sponsored by the Chemical Foundation and Farm Chemurgic Council, held May 12-14 in Dearborn, Michigan. President Grant was the special guest of Mr. Henry Ford, millionaire motor car manufacturer and spoke

before the 1,200 conference delegates on two occasions, explaining the Church Security Programme to them.

Later in the summer, President Grant went to Estes Park, Colorado, high in the Rocky Mountains, where he was one of the principal speakers at the Institute of Human Relations, sponsored by the National



The Kidderminster Convention

It attracted more than 600 members from all parts of Britain.

Conference of Jews and Christians.

At Winter Quarters, Nebraska, where 600 early members of the Church lie buried in unmarked graves, a beautiful bronze monument, sculptured by Elder Avarad Fairbanks was dedicated at impressive ceremonies held September 20. Among the prominent officials who, with Church leaders, took part were Governor R. L. Cochran of Nebraska, Mayor Dan Butler of Omaha and Mr. Carl R. Gray, president of the Union Pacific Railroad. The programme was broadcast over the network of the National Broadcasting Company.

The foregoing are a few of the highlights of Church activity in the World and indicate the outstanding position it is assuming today. In Britain, similar progress has been apparent and noteworthy.

When religious leaders from all parts of the globe assembled in the Great Hall of the University of London at the second World Congress of Faiths, July 3-18, two delegates to the Congress were President Joseph F. Merrill, then president of the European Mission, and President Joseph J. Cannon. President Merrill served as chairman of the afternoon session on July 16. He was introduced to the Congress by Sir Francis Younghusband, Chairman of the British National Council. Sir Francis had also extended President Merrill the invitation to preside at the Congress.

Radio—never before available to Mormon missionaries in the British Mission—was made available for the first time this year when the Millennial Chorus made two broadcasts. One was over the Athlone station at Dublin and the other from the Belfast B.

B. C. station. The Chorus has effectively carried the Gospel message through song and speech to Ireland and Northern England since its organization last June at the Kidderminster convention. Newspaper publicity has been plentiful for the Chorus. A recent clipping from the *Birmingham Evening Dispatch* consisted of a three-column picture of the group and a detailed report of their activities.

Mention of Kidderminster brings to mind another significant sign of progress. This year's M. I. A. conference, held May 30-June 1 in the Worcestershire carpet-weaving town was attended by more than 600 members from all parts of the Mission. For



The Millennial Chorus*

Its members broadcast programmes from two Irish stations during 1936.

three days those assembled enjoyed a series of meetings, socials, entertainments, and athletics.

Missionary baseball teams in London and Rochdale, after meeting in the finals of the National championship last year, did almost equally as well this year. Faced with much stronger competition, the London team,

known as the Catford Saints, finished as runners-up to White City for the National title, while Rochdale gained the North of England championship.

Four members of the Church in Ireland accepted mission calls during 1936 and are now labouring as full-time travelling missionaries. They are Sisters Laura Dimler and Gertrude Horlacher and Elder Harold P. Mogerley, all of Dublin Branch, and Elder Joseph W. Darling of Belfast.

For the first time in more than a quarter of a century, a member of the First Presidency visited England when President J. Reuben Clark, Jr. came to London on a brief business trip. During his stay President Clark spoke at special services held in London's Victoria Hall. Not since President Joseph F. Smith came to Britain in 1910 had a member of the First Presidency visited these shores.

President Richard R. Lyman succeeded President Joseph F. Merrill as head of the European Mission during September.

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*Seated, left to right: Elders George W. Shupe, Richard G. Smith, Theron L. Labrum, Bertram T. Willis, director, Leonard L. Moffatt, Harold P. Mogerley and Clyde L. Barraclough; standing, left to right: Elders Dudley M. Leavitt, president, P. M. Anderson Moyes, Robert S. Stevens, Laurel T. Pugmire, A. Burt Keddington, David C. Thomas, Norman H. Roberts and O. Clifford Merrill

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1936

EDITORIAL

THE NEW YEAR

AT the beginning of each year it is customary to make new resolutions. The new year is the point of division between the old year which has gone and the new one which is to come.

New Resolutions It is but natural at this time that we pause to review the past and plan for the future; indulge in reminiscences and dreams, recall our sorrows and disappointments, regret our mistakes and shortcomings, recount our blessings, and rejoice at any successes which may have come.

We then turn our attention to the future. In the light of the past we make our new resolutions and dream our new dreams. We rededicate ourselves to high ideals, noble principles and Christian standards.

An intelligent survey and evaluation of the past is most enlightening and should be helpful and beneficial to any thinking individual. If in the past year we have improved ourselves,

Profit by Mistakes if we have grown and developed, if success has come, we should try to find out what has brought these about.

If we have made mistakes let us realize the fact and profit by them. One thing to avoid, however, is indulgence in morbid regret which is so devastating to the human soul. Mistakes should, if possible, be used as stepping stones upon which to rise or as fortifications against future errors.

More and more as time goes on are we finding out the strength and virtue of the people in the European Mission.

Strength and Virtue of People Their industry and ability, their devotion to the Cause and the efficiency of their work has given us pride and joy. We find multitudes who are earnestly and diligently seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Our hearts are full of rejoicing, gratitude and thankfulness at what has been accomplished and we feel sure that with the help and guidance of our Heavenly Father the year 1937 is going to bring a greater success, a greater happiness and greater progress.

Greater Success Coming At the beginning of this new year let us all unite and go forward harmoniously. Let every heart be filled with the spirit of forgiveness. Let every individual realize his own shortcomings and minimize those of his friends, neighbours and fellow-workers. Remember, "Faith, hope and charity, but the greatest of these is charity." The Lord Himself hath said, be united. "If ye are not one ye are not mine." (Doctrine and Covenants 38: 27.)

Resolutions, new resolutions, renewed determinations to be better are not only desirable at the beginning of the year but

every day. Active members of the Church renew their covenants with great frequency. Those who live most strictly in accordance with the teachings and example of Him who has walked in that perfect way, resolve anew in daily prayers, in weekly Sacrament meetings, and otherwise, to improve their own lives and be more helpful to others. Appeals are made daily by the faithful for strength and ability to resist temptation. Jesus Himself said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." (Matthew 26:41.) "Pray without ceasing," the Bible tells us. (I. Thess. 5:17.)

Renewed Resolutions Every Day

The Lord Himself says, "Pray always, and I will pour out my Spirit upon you, and great shall be your blessing." (Doctrine and Covenants 19:38.) Let us seek the Lord while He may be found. Let us call upon Him, and let us call earnestly, while He is near. (Isaiah 55:6.)

Perhaps the most important part of worship is partaking worthily of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It is a witness again and again that we are willing to take upon us the name of the Son, and always remember Him, and keep His commandments that we may always have His Spirit to be with us.

It is in connection with these moments of reflection and worship, and in connection with renewed resolutions that we feel sorry for unkind words spoken, for unjust deals concluded, for anything and everything we have done that was thoughtless, unfair or unkind.

Sorrow for Wrong-doing

Let us, each and all, at the beginning of the New Year, make a thorough self-examination. Let us judge ourselves by the Gospel standards which have been set up and see how clearly our lives and conduct conform to them. Let us repent of our weaknesses and shortcomings and resolve for the future that, in all things, we shall do our very best. Let us even go farther and make daily these renewed resolutions. It is this unceasing struggle in every day which helps us to grow strong and powerful and good.

Let our prayer throughout the year be that we and the whole world come nearer and nearer to living in accordance with the perfect teachings, the perfect example of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

RICHARD R. LYMAN
AMY BROWN LYMAN

MANCHESTER AND WELSH DISTRICT CONFERENCES

MANCHESTER and Welsh District conferences will be held Sunday, January 3, at Rochdale and Merthyr-Tydfil, respectively. The Manchester conference will be held in the Rochdale Branch Chapel on Lower Sherriff Street.

Presidents Richard R. Lyman and Joseph J. Cannon and Sisters Amy Brown Lyman and Ramona W. Cannon will be the principal speakers at the Manchester conference. Elders Ralph W. Hardy, Arlond T. Christensen, and John W. Boud will be in attendance at the Welsh conference.

The date of the Scottish District conference to be held at Glasgow, originally set for January 17, has been changed to January 31.

TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH

By Ramona W. Cannon

NEW YEAR'S EVE, the hour when great resolutions are born! A time-worn custom, this making resolutions, yet much too good to be discarded! Perhaps we can get at it in a new way this year. Let us have a family party. Call it a truth party, but not the usual kind, where you tell the truth about me, and I tell the truth about you. Let us tell the truth about ourselves. Let father confess that he is irritable in the evenings,

Striking the New Year

FAMILIAR to all the world are the chimes of London's Big Ben when they proclaim the end of the Old Year and the beginning of the New. These chimes have been striking their new years since 1858. Big Ben was named after Sir Benjamin Hall, First Commissioner of Works when the bell was cast.

Big Ben is situated at the top of the 316-foot clock tower of the Houses of Parliament and overlooks Westminster Bridge. The four dials of the clock are each 22½ feet in diameter, the minute hands 14 feet long and the hour hands nine feet. The minute spaces are one foot square.

This week's cover picture is an unusual view of the huge timepiece, taken during the Silver Jubilee in 1935 when it was flood-lit with a myriad of lights. In the right foreground is the Boadicea statue.

and mother that she doesn't have dinner ready on time; big brother that he is inclined to be surly and short-tempered and to make enemies; adolescent son that he is doing poor work in school because he is lazy; or big sister that she is inclined to be a little untruthful. If some member is unable to find any flaws in himself, the family might enlighten him. Most families are very good at that sort of thing. But a real point in character will be won if each confesses his own outstanding shortcoming.

The next step might be a family pact. Pacts are quite the vogue again, and their purpose is usually to ensure mutual protection, peace and security. Nowhere are these qualities more needed than in the home. If the family machinery is running smoothly, if there is love and confidence in place of friction and criticism, if all are doing their part of the work cheerfully, and each member supports the others, the individuals of that family are almost certain to succeed in life outside the home. Hence a pact that would more nearly produce such conditions would be of the

greatest advantage to all.

If the family agreed to such an arrangement, it might be well to read *The Revelation*, chapters 2 and 3, paying particular attention to the passages which deal with the overcoming of weaknesses by members of the seven churches. They are solemn, these verses, inspiring, and filled with a deep and wonderful philosophy.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna. . . .

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations! . . .

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God. . . .

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.

Do the promises involved seem rash or extravagant? Certainly the thought of sitting with Jesus in His throne, and ruling over nations, fills one's soul with wonder and awe. Yet, promises are logical; they are the natural fruits of obedience to the injunction of Overcoming. Why? Because only by Overcoming difficulties is true progress attained. Every weakness Overcome means another rung gained on the ladder of development. That means that one has acquired something new in power, efficiency, self-control, judgment, knowledge, or character. If one continues to improve indefinitely, one will in time be fit to rule, and by God's bounteous grace may perhaps be fitted to sit in close proximity to Jesus.

Progress is the key-note of the Mormon theology. But it is not at all as though one went to school for a definite time and moved along with his classmates from form to form. Progress, in this religion, is a purely individualistic matter. You may be infinitely far ahead of your form-mates, or you may be more backward than they. That is largely a matter of the effort you have put into Overcoming.

The approaching year may be an epochal period in history. It and other future years are going to require of us that we be our best, our wisest, truest, sanest selves. Let us prepare by giving serious thought to this matter of Overcoming.

CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CHURCH

(Concluded from page 836)

to abandon and flee from their homes, they responded to the call of their country.

Crossing to the west bank of the Missouri River, as I have said, the Mormons established Winter Quarters, and here many log houses were built and a frontier settlement was made.

From Winter Quarters in the spring of 1847, Brigham Young started with his Pioneer company of one hundred forty-three men, three women and two children, to explore the unknown West, and find an abiding place for his homeless people. I shall not relate the many incidents of peril and anxiety on that memorable trip, which required many weary weeks in travelling from the Missouri River to the Salt Lake Valley, which was then practically an unknown country. Nor was the prospect pleasing

when they reached the spot where our chief city now stands. They had travelled 1,000 miles!

Many men who have been all around the world have said to me that it is one of the two most beautiful cities they had ever seen.

UPON the arrival of Brigham Young and the Pioneers in the valley, "weary and worn as I am," said one of the three Pioneer women, "I would gladly go another thousand miles rather than stay in such a desolate place," and another, her sister, echoed the same sentiment. But Brigham Young had said, "This is the place," asserting that he had seen the valley in vision some time before, and that it was the one spot where the Latter-day Saints should locate.

Brigham Young had been taken sick just before reaching the valley, and a small advance company was sent out two days ahead of the main body of Pioneers to look over the country and if possible prepare a parcel of land for planting. They had brought some ploughs, but found the ground so hard that several ploughshares were broken. They then turned the water of a small stream on the parched and baked soil, and on the first day succeeded in planting a few acres of crops. So far as I know, this was the beginning by Americans of that system of community irrigation which has meant so much in the development of the United States, a system which has reclaimed millions upon millions of acres of land, and has led to the expenditure of many millions of dollars by the government in reclamation projects in Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and other sections of the western country.

By the fall of 1847 there were sixteen hundred people in Salt Lake Valley. They had already built a log fort with extensions and a number of log houses.

Their industry was prospectively to be rewarded with fruitful harvests in 1848, when myriads of crickets appeared, devouring everything before them. Immigration had continued meanwhile, and now that it appeared that the crops would be utterly lost in spite of all they could do, the people felt that ruin and starvation stared them in the face, because they were a thousand miles from anywhere, so to speak. Unless that harvest could be saved, there was nothing for them to look forward to but absolute starvation. As a people they believed God came to their rescue; that it was in His providence that from the islands in the Great Salt Lake the flocks of gulls came which devoured the crickets. In commemoration of this deliverance there has since been erected a very beautiful monument to the seagull, designed by a grandson of Brigham Young.

Our legislature has enacted a law prohibiting the killing of gulls; and the birds are so tame they come into our fields, and follow the ploughman to feast on the worms that are uncovered in his furrow.

We ask people to judge us by the standard laid down by our Saviour: "By their fruits ye shall know them." Our reputation was equally as bad as the Saviour's, and our enemies wanted to kill us, but we escaped.

I was asked to speak on our present aims and purposes. Our

aim and purpose is to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation under heaven. We have had as many as 2,300 missionaries in the field at one time, being sustained at the expense of themselves and their families, without remuneration from the Church.

It has been my privilege to bear my testimony in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark; in Canada and Mexico; in the Hawaiian Islands, and in far off Japan, that I know as I know I live, that God lives. I have approached Him in prayer time and time again, and my prayers have been answered beyond question of a doubt. I know that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God, the Redeemer of the world; that He came to the earth with a divinely appointed mission to die upon the cross for the sins of mankind. "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." I know as I know that I live that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the true and the living God, and that his declaration that we should be driven from city to city, from county to county, state to state, and finally to the Rocky Mountains, has been literally fulfilled.

GLANCING BACK—LOOKING AHEAD

(Concluded from page 839)

President Merrill had presided over the Mission since 1933. Sister Amy Brown Lyman, first counsellor in the general presidency of the Relief Society and consulting advisor for women's auxiliaries in the European Mission went to Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, where she attended the International Council of Women as one of the ten official delegates representing the National Council of Women of the United States.

Numerous are other evidences of progress. Four more branch chapels were added to the growing list of those with their own chapels. New ones are in the course of construction at Merthyr-Tydfil and North London, while chapels were acquired in Rochdale and Southwest London.

And so as another year passes into eternity, Church members may well look back upon 1936 as an outstanding one. Success and progress have been abundantly evident. Looking ahead into the New Year, marking the centenary of the Gospel's coming to Britain, there is yet much to be accomplished and many fields of endeavour in which it can be accomplished. We recall the words of God revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith:

For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul. (Doctrine and Covenants 4: 4.)

This wondrous truth, revealed in 1829 can be just as effectively applied today as it could a century ago. For truly, the field is still white, ready for harvest. And those who thrusteth in their sickles with their might have the promise given unto them, revealed in these latter days, that they shall bring upon themselves that greatest of all gifts—eternal life. What greater promise can man be given?

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT CONFERENCE

BIRMINGHAM District conference sessions convened Sunday, December 20, in Handsworth Branch Chapel with Sister Amy Brown Lyman and President Joseph J. Cannon as principal speakers.

The evening session of the conference was conducted by Brother William St. John Yates, second counsellor in the district presidency. Speakers included President Cannon, Elders Bertram T. Willis, Parry D. Sorensen, Robert S. Stevens and David C. Thomas. A vocal solo was sung by Sister Muriel Hunter, who also directed the District Choir. The Millennial Chorus, under the direction of Elder Willis furnished musical numbers for all of the sessions.

Sister Lyman was principal

speaker in the afternoon meeting, devoted largely to Relief Society work. Sister Bertha Collins, district president of the Relief Society, Sister Hannah Jevens, Supervising Elder Karl F. Foster, and Elders Arthur W. Jorgensen, John B. Hoge, William B. Hawkins, Blaine D. Parkinson, and Victor Blaine Hart were other speakers. District President Norman Dunn conducted.

The morning session was conducted by Brother George E. Hunter, first counsellor in the district presidency. Speakers were Brothers Albert Collins, Samuel Dyson, Leslie W. Dunn, Dennis F. Collins and Frederick Webb and Sisters Joyce Gittins, Winifred E. Makin, and Dora W. Green. A selection was sung by the Children's Chorus of the district.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Publication of a musical volume by Elder Alexander Schreiner, University organist at the University



Elder Schreiner

Writings published.

of California at Los Angeles is being planned by J. A. Fisher and Brother, New York music publishers. The book *Organ Voluntaries*, contains sixty devotional voluntaries for church organists, ten of which are original, and other arrangements from classical sources. When the book is published, 3,000 copies will be distributed by the Church Music Committee for the use of stake and ward organists. Elder Schreiner has been a staff organist of the Salt Lake Tabernacle since 1924, and for the past few summers has presented a series of organ recitals there which have become nationally known. Born in Nuremberg, Germany, Elder Schreiner was appointed organist of a city church there at the age of eight years. He has been official organist of the University

of California for the past six years.

Appointment of Elder Thomas L. Woodbury as president of the Tahitian Mission of the Church was announced Thursday, December 3 by the First Presidency. Elder Woodbury will succeed Elder LeRoy Mallory, who has presided over the mission since 1933. The new president laboured as a missionary in the Society Islands, as they were formerly known, from 1893 to 1896. For many years he was a member of the High Council of Pioneer Stake and also served in the Stake Sunday School Superintendency.

Three full columns, accompanied by pictures of the Salt Lake Temple, the Prophet Joseph Smith, and President Heber J. Grant, appeared in *Den Nya Dagligt Allehanda*, Stockholm's largest newspaper, recently. "It is surprising how little one knows about his own country," it began. Mentioning that there are 1,700 Mormons in Sweden it stated, "the truth is, that people here have right queer conceptions about the Mormons." In a very favourable light the article correctly explained its organization, and its missionary system.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Release—Elder Reed W. Ellsworth was honourably released December 17 to return to his home in Safford, Arizona. He has laboured in Newcastle, London and Scottish Districts (supervising elder of the latter).

Transfers—Supervising Elder Clair M. Aldrich was transferred from Newcastle to Leeds District December 18. Elder Aldrich wished to labour in another district during the last few months of his mission. Elder Keith M. McMurrin was transferred from Nottingham to Liverpool District December 18.

Appointments—Elder A. Leslie Derbyshire was transferred from Leeds District and appointed Supervising Elder of Newcastle District Friday, December 18.

Elder Edwin H. Lauber was appointed Supervising Elder of Nottingham District Monday, December 21.

Arrivals and Assignments—New

missionaries arriving Wednesday, December 16 on the R. M. S. *Bevergaria* and their assignments are as follows: Sister Marie Waldram (Sugar City, Idaho), Sister Harriet

Chamberlain (Kanab, Utah) and Elder Max Duffin (Salt Lake City), London District; Elders H. Hooper Mortensen and A. Ferron Forsgren (Salt Lake City), Nottingham District and Clarence Silver (Salt Lake City), Irish District.

The Building Fund Challenge

In the past few issues of the *Star* the status of contestants in the Mission Building Fund Contest, which closes on January 15, has been followed. Dr. Ray M. Russell of London has for many years been a leader in an effort to see Britain possess a group of chapels which would more appropriately represent the beauty of the message which is taught within them. He has donated £17-10-0 to be distributed in prizes among the three branches which raise the greatest amount toward their building funds.

During 1936, "Ravenslea," at the cost of several thousand pounds, has become the new home of Southwest London Branch. Likewise North London Branch is proud of its modern "typical" Latter-day Saint chapel which is now ready to dedicate, having been constructed during the past year. Rochdale Branch is happy with its new chapel, and Welsh District with the new chapel built recently as the home for Merthyr Tydfil Branch, is not forgotten. Liverpool Branch will also have a new chapel in the near future. These with a multitude of other improvements credited to 1936, furnish ample evidence that this has been a year of progress in the British Mission.

As the contest is drawing near its finish let all of us do our part by contributing to our branch building funds. We can make the end of this year a climax. Let's get a prize.

Doings in the Districts: London—Sister Margaret L. Stevens and the Relief Society officers of the Brighton Branch held a rummage sale at the Branch Hall Tuesday, December 15. Branch members and many of their friends attended.

A Christmas social was given by St. Albans Branch M. I. A. Tuesday, December 15. Brother Ernest G. Osborn and Sister Elsie Osborn, Y. M. M. I. A. and Y. W. M. I. A. presidents, respectively, arranged the programme and Branch President

William J. Jolliffe conducted. More than 40 members and friends attended.

Liverpool—The Relief Society of Preston Branch successfully held its annual sale of work under the supervision of President Mary C. Hartley assisted by Sister Laura Winn, in the Branch hall Friday, December 11. Preston Branch conference was held Sunday, December 13, with Branch President Dale L. Barton conducting the evening service. District President Fred Bradbury, Brother Harold Corless, and Supervising Elder David Y. Rogers were speakers. The morning session was conducted by Sunday School Supervisor Clifford Hartley. On Thursday, December 17, a Christmas social was sponsored by the Branch Y. W. M. I. A. and conducted by Sister

Dulcie Ryan. Brother Harry Gregson furnished several numbers with his piano accordion.

Manchester—Rochdale Branch Sunday School department sponsored a social in the Branch hall Saturday, November 14. A supper was given for the Branch M. I. A. members by the Gleaner Girls Friday, November 27.

Newcastle—West Hartlepool Branch conference was conducted Sunday, December 6 by President William H. Allason. Speakers at the evening meeting were District President Frederick W. Oates and Supervising Elder Clair M. Aldrich. Musical numbers were rendered by Sisters Elaine Short, Edith Hazel Horner, Rowena C. Webster, Edith Pidd, and President Allason.

A WISH

By CARLTON JAMES BALFOUR

WHEN we have gathered all the sweet fresh blooms of youth,
And stand upon life's hill-top looking back—
When we have sounded depths of clear unfettered Truth—
Have left some dreams, some joys along our track—
May Peace her robe of white around us fold,
And Love hold fast Our hand as We grow old.

When down the western slope of time we take our way,
And leaves of autumn rustle 'neath our feet,
May we recall with joy, Life's glad young span—
When dreams were real, and the days were long and sweet,
Keep us, oh God, from growing hard and cold,
For, Oh—, We would be young, when We grow old.

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